(b) whether Central assistance is being extended to various States for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States where mushroom cultivation has been under taken during the Eighth Plan;

(e) the States where mushroom cultivation is proposed to be extended during 1996-97; and

(f) the details of the steps being taken in this regard in Orissa?

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Mushroom Cultivation with a total outlay of Rs. 15.68 crores during the current Plan. The components of the Scheme are setting up of 36 Spawn production units (@ Rs. 11.5 lakh per unit); 35 pasteurised compost units (@ Rs. 28.5 lakhs per unit) and providing training to 27,200 farmers to promote mushroom production in different States.

(d) The States/Union Territories where mushroom production is reported to be underway during Eighth Plan are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(e) All the States listed under '(d)' above.

(f) The State of Orissa has been allocated a sum of Rs. 43.60 lakhs for setting up of one Spawn production one pasteurised compost unit and training of 600 armers.

Conversion of Coach into Saloon

3120. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coach No. 6268 has been converted nto a saloon in Ratlam Division of the Western Railway.

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) the authority under which conversion was done alongwith the expenditure incurred on the same;

(d) the per day loss of the earnings by withdrawal of the said Coach; and

(e) whether any other Coach has been provided in the said train as a replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). One composite first-cum-second class coach built 22 years ago has since been converted into a mobile training-cum-inspection car for imparting training to staff at road side stations and for inspection.

(c) Conversion was made by divisional authorities at a cost of about Rs. 50,000/-.

(d) Such data for individual coach is not available.

(e) No, Sir. This composite coach was running by passenger trains. Railways have as a policy, stopped manufacturing first class (full and composite) coaches and therefore the existing ones from passenger and Mail/Express trains are being withdrawn gradually.

Rail Lines in Kerala

3121. SHRI O. BHARATHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing rail lines in Kerala are as old as fifty years and more; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration to modernise the rail lines in order to make them safe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Electrification of Railway Routes

3122. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the rail routes likely to be electrified during the current year, State-wise and Zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the rail electrification work in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The rail routes/sections of railways likely to be electrified during the current year i.e. by 31.03.1997 are as under :

Section	Route Kilometre	Railway Zone	State
1	2	3	4
1. Tori-Patratu-Chainpur (Part of Sonnagar-Patratu and Gumia-Patratu)	101	Eastern	Bihar
2. Mandi Govindgarh-Ludhiana (Part of Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana)	46	Northern	Punjab
3. Walayar-Shoranur (Part of Erode-Ernakulam)	72	Southern	Kerala
4. Karkend-Jamadoba (Part of Jamadoba-Mohuda)	08	South Eastern	West Bengal
5. Bondamunda-Barsuan/ Kiriburu	105	South Eastern	Orissa Bihar